tentelkhunti, Saraibahal-Suklimuri in Bolangir district; Naktamunda-Siali, Badmal-Mursundi, Binika-Sonepur in Subarnapur district, Boudh-Ramgarh, Kantamal-Manmunda, Bargochha in Boudh district; Jillingdhar-Hinjli-Bahal, Orabahal-Urharanga, Ghatpara-Singhijharan, Sirjapali-Tundla, Banjhipadar-Sargiguda in Kalahandi district; Sardhapur-Patialpada, Katamal-Bebebir-Amera, Damjhor-Burhapada-Mantritarai in Nuapada district; Paikdakulguda-Hatamuniguda, Irkubadi-Tarhama, Karlaghati-Karanjgurha in Rayagada district and Belghar-Jhirpani in Phulbhani district.

(c) State Governments are empowered to take action under Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 for preventing illegal mining/ smuggling. Recently the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act has been amended and further provisions added to strengthen the hands of State Governments in preventing smuggling of minerals.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Orissa had identified 28 gem bearing tracts under a UNDP assisted project. Of these 28 tracts, prospecting has been completed in 18. In accordance with its Gem Stone Policy of 1998, the State Government has undertaken expeditious prospecting in the balance 10 tracts.

Strike in Singareni Coal Mines

2849. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Singareni Coal miners went on strike for 13 days in February, 2000;

(b) if so, their demands and agreements made with the Management before calling off the strike; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid such strikes in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS [DR. (SMT.) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Singareni Collieries Workers' Union (SCWU), a recognised Union, organised a strike throughout the Company from first shift of 09-02-2000 to 21-02-2000.

(b) Major demands of the Union were as under:—

(i) Early finalisation of National Coal Wage Agreement-VI,

(ii) Payment of House Rent Allowance @ 10% of basic pay to the employees living in 3 'C' class towns,

(iii) Confirmation of 117 acting clerks as Clerks,

(iv) Providing alternative employment to the workmen declared unfit to their original job due to reasons other than mine accidents,

(v) To stop introduction of 7 day week with staggering play day system,

(vi) To stop introduction of staggering shifts to the Coalfillers and Coal cutters in underground mines,

(vii) Implementation of Cadre Schemes for Lamp room staff, EP Tradesmen in opencast projects and providing monthly grades to Tradesmen,

(viii) Finalisation of pending Cadre Schemes,

(ix) Revision of company allowances,

(x) Demands pertaining to promotion to Overmen of Mining Staff, Civil, E&M, Diploma Holders Office Supdts., EDP Assts., stenographers to executive scales of pay,

(xi) Not to declare lock out to the monthly rated employees including mining staff and clerical staff in the event of illegal strikes by other section of workmen,

(xii) Change in the eligibility criteria for promotion to the post of Electrical Charge Hand Grade B,

(xiii) Allotment of quarters to open cast project personnel adoption of Joint Bipartite Committee on Coal Industry cadre scheme for clerical staff,

(xiv) To give one more opportunity to the dependants who were offered appointment as Badli filler but did not report for duty for one reason or other,

(xv) Regularisation of Badli Coalfillers as Coalfillers,

(xvi) Reviewing the penalties imposed on certain employees,

(xvii) Re-appointment of workmen dismissed on the grounds of absenteeism,

(xviii) Providing uniform to the employees working in Longwalls/ Blasting Gallary Penels, providing Excavation Plant grades to certain tradesmen working in Blasting Gallary Panel, Longwall workshops etc.,

(xix) Re-appointment of 8 employees of Rama Krishna Puram-Mandamarri who have been dismissed on the fake medical unfit certificates; and

(xx) Not to change the existing practice in respect of Helpers to Tradesman, Shift timings in Open cast projects as has been the practice in Coal India Limited and recovery of electricity charges from the workers residing in Company's quarters.

The Strike Notice was seized in conciliation by the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Hyderabad and conciliation proceedings were held by him on different dates commencing from 11-01-2000. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh convened a joint meeting with the representatives of Management and recognised Union on 21-02-2000. As a result of this meeting, a Memorandum of Settlement was arrived at between the management of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. and SCWU on 27 issues including almost all the above 20 demands before Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Hyderabad on 21-02-2000. Consequent to signing of the above settlement the strike was called off by the Union from 22-02-2000.

(c) The Management has been holding periodic discussions with the Union to sort out the issues. It is being impressed upon the Union not to raise any issues beyond what is provided in Nation Coal Wage Agreements for the rest of the Coal Industry. It is also proposed to organise training classes to the managerial personnel and trade union leaders on the subject of Maintaining Harmonious Industrial Relations.

National Wind Survey Programme

2850. SHRI KUSHOK THIKSEY : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is a fact that the National Wind Survey Programme was taken up in 21 States to examine the viability to install generator and battery charging system;

(b) if so, whether any study has been done in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir to explore the possibility of generating wind energy;

(c) if not, whether Government purpose to conduct any study there;

(d) if not, the reason therefor, and